

## MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE BOARD LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR

KEITH G. HARRISON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 9, 2005

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm Governor of Michigan P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, Michigan 48909

## Dear Governor Granholm:

This is to advise you that on Monday, February 28, 2005, I will be retiring from state government and, therefore, also resigning from my gubernatorial appointed position as Executive Director of the Michigan Environmental Science Board (MESB). Upon my retirement, I will have served the state for just under 25 years in a variety of science-related positions within six different state agencies. In addition, for the last 12 ½ years of my state career, I will have concurrently served the state as the Executive Director of the MESB.

The MESB was created August 6, 1992, as a Type II independent autonomous state agency through Executive Order 1992-19. The MESB consists of an executive director and nine members, appointed by you, who have expertise in one or more of the following disciplines: engineering, ecological sciences, chemistry, physics, toxicology, pharmacology, biological sciences, human medicine, statistics, risk management, geology, economics, and other academic disciplines as necessary. All members and the executive director serve on the MESB voluntarily and without pay.

The MESB was established to provide you, and state departments upon your request, with advice based on sound, objective science and technology on matters relating to environmental protection and natural resources management. The MESB purposefully does not serve as a state policy body or an advocate for or against any particular environmental or public health concern. All conclusions and recommendations emanating from MESB investigations are based on consensus supported by compelling scientific rationale and sustaining data. The MESB investigative protocol helps to ensure that any advice provided to you by the MESB is based solely on the scientific and/or technical merits of the issue and is unbiased by personal opinions or vested interests.

During the last 12 plus years, the MESB has prepared 18 scientific reports on a wide diversity of Michigan concerns ranging from the evaluation of the environmental and human health impacts of mercury, chlorine, and lead to the evaluation of the efficacy of

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directional drilling under the Great Lakes and the probability of occurrence of certain types of cancer among fire fighters (see Attachment 1). The 18 MESB investigations have provided invaluable counsel to state government regarding significant environmental issues facing Michigan. In addition, several of the MESB's reports have served as the scientific underpinning for the development of subsequent state environmental policy. Because of its demonstrated expertise, the MESB has become recognized by academia, other state environmental and natural resources agencies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as a highly credible scientific and peer review resource serving Michigan government.

In light of some of the more complex environmental and technological challenges facing Michigan (see Table 1), it is my hope that your administration might take more advantage of this highly respected state scientific resource to assist the state's policy makers in addressing the significant environmental issues affecting Michigan and the Great Lakes Region. This volunteer body of nationally recognized science and technology experts is an important on-call, gratis resource to state government and it would be highly advantageous to Michigan to avail itself more of its expertise and advice.

## Table 1. Emerging Environmental and Technological Concerns and Challenges

- Increased state focus on environmentally polluting pharmaceuticals and their relationship to observed increased antibiotic resistance.
- Increased state focus on estrogenic compounds and their observed impacts on fish, wildlife, and possibly humans.
- Containment, mitigation and, where possible, eradication of the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Prevention and mitigation of the impacts of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.
- Objective scientific evaluation of genetically modified food concerns.
- Reversal of urban sprawl and mitigation of its negative impact on wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
- Objective scientific evaluation of the implications of genomics and molecular nanotechnology to the environment and humans.
- Increased state focus on gasification of waste material to energy technologies.
- Increased state focus on carbon capture and sequestration technologies.

Although I am retiring from state government, I will not be retiring from working. Given my 30 plus years of experience, I will be establishing a professional consultation service to provide advice in the areas of ecological and environmental sciences. In addition,

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given my recent appointment by the USEPA Science Advisory Board, I will be continuing my participation on the Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis' Ecological Effects Subcommittee and on several other USEPA committees on national and regional environmental indicators.

It has been a distinct honor to have served former Governor John Engler and you for the last 12 ½ years as the MESB Executive Director. In addition, it has been distinct privilege to have served the citizens of Michigan for the last 24 plus years as a state civil servant.

Sincerely,

Keith G. Harrison, M.A., R.S., R.E.H.S., Certified Senior Ecologist

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Keil H. Hanson

cc/att: The Honorable John Engler, Former Governor

Ms. Susan Corbin, Director of Appointments, Governor's Office

Ms. Dana Debel, Environmental Advisor, Governor's Office

Current and Former Members, Michigan Environmental Science Board

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